

American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-682-8000



July 7, 1986

TO: SUBSCRIBERS TO THE API MONTHLY DRILLING REPORT

The API, because of current reporting procedures, has changed the classification of certain gas wells to oil wells for prior years.

Please see page 6, attached to the April "Monthly Completion Report" for a further discussion regarding this change.



STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
Special Projects Section
(202) 682-8492/682-8518

Report Month: APRIL 1986

REPORT ON WELL COMPLETIONS IN THE UNITED STATES¹

Wells actually completed in the current month may not be reported until several months later. The chart shown below illustrates the cumulative number of well completions for the current month and each of the eleven prior months, as now reported to the API. For comparison purposes, a corresponding curve describes the data, as then reported to the API, for the same twelve-month

period a year ago.

These data are preliminary and subject to revision. The number of wells shown in the chart excludes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. The geographic distribution for wells and footage is not published on a monthly basis, but is available from the API's "Quarterly Completion Report."

Cumulative Number of Wells Reported as Completed
For Each of the Past 12 Months

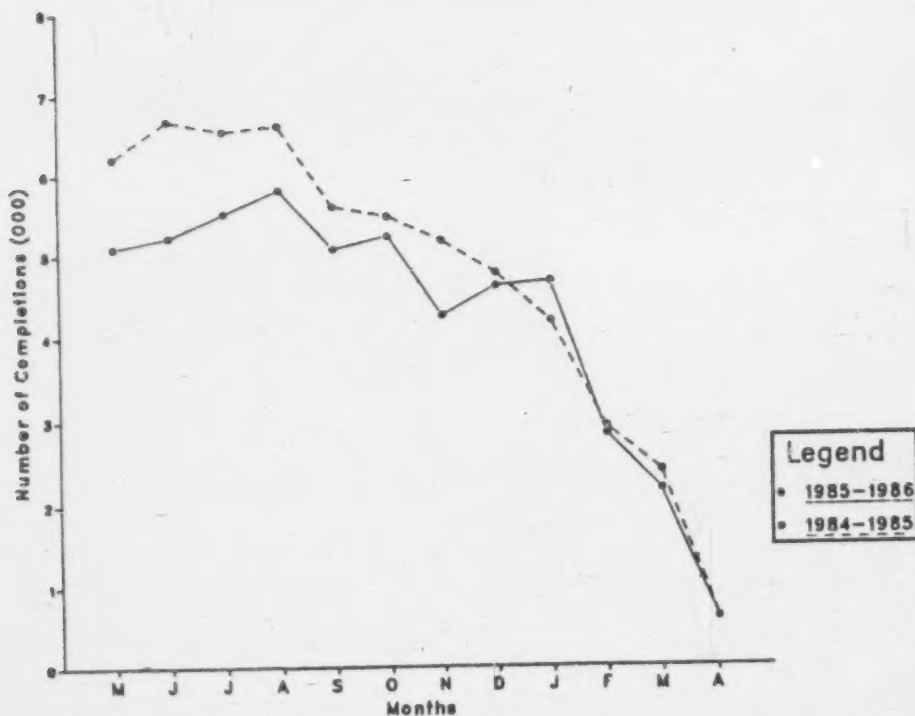


TABLE 1: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF TOTAL WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES
BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF APRIL 25, 1986¹

	OIL WELLS ²		GAS WELLS ³		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES		TOTAL ALL WELLS ⁴	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	5,554	22,817,534	1,289	7,868,923	3,401	18,611,561	10,244	49,298,018	10,350	49,681,530
1986: APR	240	935,188	49	316,544	308	1,682,388	597	2,934,120	598	2,936,420
MAR	1,119	4,813,346	252	1,681,288	798	4,329,026	2,169	10,823,660	2,181	10,859,498
FEB	1,637	7,101,667	343	2,194,527	850	4,927,425	2,830	14,223,619	2,863	14,363,099
JAN	2,558	9,967,333	645	3,676,564	1,445	7,672,722	4,648	21,316,619	4,708	21,522,513
TOTAL 1985	32,732	132,390,663	11,286	62,998,089	19,309	97,275,817	63,327	292,664,569	64,719	297,241,628
1985: DEC	2,345	9,711,662	683	3,882,256	1,569	8,272,393	4,597	21,866,311	4,662	22,101,105
NOV	2,179	8,918,132	700	4,000,300	1,369	6,938,580	4,248	19,857,012	4,309	20,089,858
OCT	2,619	10,659,232	1,016	5,214,781	1,578	7,791,815	5,213	23,665,828	5,292	23,936,513
SEP	2,557	9,985,125	935	4,996,086	1,565	7,795,825	5,057	22,777,036	5,138	23,013,060
AUG	3,020	11,810,213	1,002	5,441,383	1,774	8,545,352	5,796	25,796,948	5,879	26,045,910
JUL	2,842	10,852,375	998	5,536,785	1,662	7,931,168	5,502	24,320,328	5,634	24,712,461
JUN	2,723	10,749,989	941	5,091,343	1,542	7,393,385	5,206	23,234,717	5,331	23,661,215
MAY	2,659	11,190,144	856	4,853,452	1,561	7,890,763	5,076	23,934,359	5,232	24,475,164
APR	2,821	11,469,016	931	5,448,286	1,621	8,201,952	5,373	25,119,254	5,507	25,512,021
MAR	3,082	12,757,526	1,048	6,048,000	1,738	8,674,353	5,868	27,479,879	6,043	27,983,239
FEB	2,697	11,352,770	1,030	5,935,751	1,449	7,688,576	5,176	24,977,097	5,308	25,413,115
JAN	3,188	12,934,479	1,146	6,549,666	1,881	10,151,655	6,215	29,635,800	6,384	30,297,967
TOTAL 1984	42,820	164,033,663	14,343	79,189,731	24,359	116,224,361	81,522	359,447,755	83,613	364,993,125
1984: DEC	3,483	13,066,523	1,276	6,678,192	2,028	10,344,018	6,787	30,088,733	6,966	30,548,383
NOV	3,632	13,683,735	1,367	6,930,900	1,946	9,592,770	6,945	30,207,405	7,109	30,671,506
OCT	3,656	14,525,954	1,322	7,162,840	2,001	9,497,523	6,979	31,186,317	7,205	31,835,438
SEP	3,560	13,185,242	1,205	6,433,951	2,013	9,340,555	6,778	28,959,748	6,914	29,324,441
AUG	3,783	13,983,957	1,368	7,359,077	2,453	11,028,598	7,604	32,371,632	7,793	32,939,052
JUL	3,835	14,404,695	1,212	6,868,726	2,232	10,109,555	7,279	31,382,976	7,456	31,859,078
JUN	3,800	14,011,900	1,269	6,796,813	2,281	10,320,880	7,350	31,129,593	7,529	31,581,766
MAY	3,644	14,010,953	1,150	6,566,294	1,914	9,275,127	6,708	29,852,374	6,871	30,243,022
APR	3,183	12,004,854	853	5,312,910	1,681	8,329,995	5,717	25,647,759	5,906	26,086,413
MAR	3,354	13,460,380	1,022	6,366,375	1,761	8,799,014	6,137	28,625,769	6,311	29,053,030
FEB	3,364	13,363,468	1,119	6,144,196	1,781	8,786,920	6,264	28,294,584	6,419	28,728,613
JAN	3,526	14,332,002	1,180	6,569,457	2,268	10,799,406	6,974	31,700,865	7,134	32,120,383
TOTAL 1983	37,727	139,910,175	12,542	69,214,808	23,263	102,430,594	73,532	311,555,577	75,526	316,260,463
TOTAL 1982	39,973	152,428,040	17,111	98,967,227	25,652	121,555,322	82,736	372,950,589	84,951	378,218,185

See footnotes on page 5.

PLEASE SEE NOTE ON PAGE 6, REGARDING OIL AND GAS WELL CLASSIFICATION CHANGES.

TABLE II: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF EXPLORATORY WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES
BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF APRIL 25, 1986¹

	OIL WELLS ²		GAS WELLS ³		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	323	1,953,865	130	899,454	1,624	9,920,708	2,077	12,774,027
1986: APR	16	99,319	3	35,011	149	915,648	168	1,049,978
MAR	62	400,344	30	229,964	401	2,397,013	493	3,027,321
FEB	88	544,131	34	250,558	401	2,596,916	523	3,391,605
JAN	157	910,071	63	383,921	673	4,011,131	893	5,305,123
TOTAL 1985	1,688	9,838,407	1,152	7,666,139	8,581	47,873,457	11,421	65,378,003
1985: DEC	127	763,162	66	436,235	777	4,468,989	970	5,668,386
NOV	95	566,099	71	504,078	632	3,503,613	798	4,573,790
OCT	136	753,696	74	401,697	719	3,892,970	929	5,048,363
SEP	115	622,613	71	483,361	710	3,825,496	896	4,931,470
AUG	167	986,023	91	598,131	777	4,126,018	1,035	5,710,172
JUL	134	776,858	80	511,787	717	3,786,126	931	5,074,771
JUN	121	637,417	109	784,003	648	3,347,748	878	4,769,168
MAY	149	870,254	120	763,804	654	3,685,926	923	5,319,984
APR	127	701,243	110	751,697	691	3,982,514	928	5,435,454
MAR	179	1,084,585	104	671,530	728	4,128,839	1,011	5,884,954
FEB	164	1,026,618	116	810,789	678	4,043,367	958	5,880,774
JAN	174	1,049,839	140	949,027	850	5,081,851	1,164	7,080,717
TOTAL 1984	2,307	12,492,689	1,544	9,718,167	10,855	57,751,788	14,706	79,962,644
1984: DEC	155	796,826	101	556,000	935	5,411,389	1,191	6,764,215
NOV	177	982,976	110	658,595	843	4,688,859	1,130	6,330,430
OCT	159	825,650	139	893,637	936	4,785,859	1,234	6,505,146
SEP	215	1,166,630	127	863,395	882	4,535,050	1,224	6,565,075
AUG	187	998,761	123	797,629	1,052	5,482,128	1,362	7,278,518
JUL	189	988,635	150	982,743	1,047	5,185,359	1,386	7,156,737
JUN	199	1,110,611	132	763,305	1,052	5,280,704	1,383	7,154,620
MAY	213	1,162,696	133	826,856	828	4,526,048	1,174	6,515,600
APR	155	901,620	98	673,472	750	4,067,335	1,003	5,642,427
MAR	216	1,200,913	150	1,026,389	735	4,130,554	1,101	6,357,856
FEB	206	1,163,415	150	889,126	800	4,413,329	1,156	6,465,870
JAN	236	1,193,956	131	787,020	995	5,245,174	1,362	7,226,150
TOTAL 1983	2,132	10,622,354	1,614	10,095,067	9,978	48,208,681	13,724	68,926,102
TOTAL 1982	2,485	13,507,736	2,128	14,580,492	11,195	60,201,841	15,808	88,290,069

See footnotes on page 5.

PLEASE SEE NOTE ON PAGE 6, REGARDING OIL AND GAS WELL CLASSIFICATION CHANGES.

TABLE III: TOTAL NUMBER OF WELLS AND FOOTAGE ADDITIONS¹ BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR
REPORTED TO THE API DURING APRIL 1986

	OIL WELLS ²		GAS WELLS ³		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS AND DRY HOLES		TOTAL WELLS REPORTED ⁴ CURRENT MONTH	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	1,930	8,296,608	521	3,316,799	899	4,711,100	3,350	16,324,507	3,389	16,505,533
1986: APR	240	935,188	49	316,544	308	1,682,388	597	2,934,120	598	2,936,420
MAR	775	3,501,034	184	1,287,772	346	1,859,366	1,305	6,648,172	1,311	6,677,428
FEB	507	2,326,230	144	937,454	133	722,228	784	3,985,912	802	4,081,162
JAN	408	1,534,156	144	775,029	112	447,118	664	2,756,303	678	2,810,523
TOTAL 1985	663	1,788,165	339	1,594,556	278	1,246,400	1,280	4,629,121	1,367	4,825,249
1985: DEC	137	452,023	102	511,661	70	364,536	309	1,328,220	324	1,380,300
NOV	99	320,178	55	334,441	43	171,353	197	825,972	201	844,634
OCT	107	256,591	44	180,736	48	216,965	199	654,292	203	671,867
SEP	98	225,216	42	181,076	19	84,646	159	490,938	162	510,854
AUG	49	144,530	19	84,551	24	118,706	92	347,787	94	351,041
JUL	37	84,856	17	82,676	9	52,898	63	220,430	72	239,635
JUN	29	47,610	13	55,714	12	41,797	54	145,121	64	156,722
MAY	32	88,048	6	20,935	13	53,422	51	162,405	62	172,688
APR	26	72,187	6	30,579	8	31,325	40	134,091	47	144,079
MAR	17	32,676	15	48,565	9	26,955	41	108,196	58	134,766
FEB	13	29,146	7	9,766	9	40,912	29	79,824	33	86,257
JAN	19	35,104	13	53,856	14	42,885	46	131,845	47	132,406
TOTAL 1984	148	269,341	56	175,443	79	255,476	283	700,260	288	707,028
1984: DEC	9	10,283	7	32,115	12	29,942	28	72,340	29	73,640
NOV	22	57,121	5	18,888	9	41,056	36	117,065	36	117,065
OCT	16	22,124	13	34,608	5	34,572	34	91,304	36	93,527
SEP	20	35,725	8	21,075	9	23,526	37	80,326	37	80,326
AUG	12	20,853	4	8,133	15	18,722	31	47,708	32	50,273
JUL	13	23,922	5	15,669	6	8,539	24	48,130	24	48,130
JUN	27	42,986	5	16,975	4	24,223	36	84,184	37	84,864
MAY	12	20,284	3	8,459	4	21,192	19	49,935	19	49,935
APR	5	10,397	0	0	4	23,550	9	33,947	9	33,947
MAR	3	3,308	2	2,009	5	18,019	10	23,336	10	23,336
FEB	7	16,906	1	3,050	3	3,860	11	23,816	11	23,816
JAN	2	5,432	3	14,462	3	8,275	8	28,169	8	28,169
TOTAL 1983	69	96,597	11	53,097	53	138,736	133	288,430	134	289,738
VRS PRIOR TO 1983	16	26,198	9	52,855	31	103,417	56	182,470	56	182,470
TOTAL WELLS REPORTED ⁵	2,826	10,476,909	936	5,192,750	1,340	6,455,129	5,102	22,124,788	5,234	22,510,018

See footnotes on page 5.

NOTE: The oil and gas well completions shown on Table III are being reported on the new basis and, therefore, are not subject to reclassification, regardless of the year of completion.

TABLE I AND TABLE II:

1. The cumulative number of wells reported in this table is the total number of wells included in the API database for each of the months and years shown, as of April 25, 1986. These data are preliminary and subject to further revisions.
2. Includes multiple completion wells which produce oil from at least one zone, but may produce gas from one or more zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well.
3. Includes multiple completion wells which produce gas from all zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well. Gas wells also include so-called condensate wells.
4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. (Not applicable to Table II.)

TABLE III:

1. Total number of wells received by the API during the report month and classified by completion month and year. These wells are included in Tables I and II.
2. See footnote (2) above.
3. See footnote (3) above.
4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells.
5. Total wells reported are those received by the API for the report period April 1, 1986 through April 25, 1986. The sub-totals shown for each yearly period may not add up to the total wells reported for the period. Some wells, received during the report period, may have been completed in years prior to those shown in Table III.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In 1966 the American Petroleum Institute, in conjunction with other industry associations and federal and state agencies, agreed on a set of definitions for terms used in reporting statistical information. Included were the definitions for oil wells and gas wells, which have appeared as footnotes in the API's drilling publications since 1970. In most cases these definitions were adhered to.

The one exception to this was in the state of Ohio, where a substantial number of wells produce primarily gas along with relatively small amounts of oil. The Ohio Division of Oil and Gas classified these as "combination" wells. In reporting these wells to the API, the Ohio Oil and Gas Division developed a formula for classifying these combination wells as either oil or gas. Therefore, for the years 1970 through 1985, certain wells were classified as gas wells, which under the API definitions would have been classified as oil wells.

Petroleum Information Corporation, on the other hand, adhered to the definitions established, and thus reported these wells as oil wells. Thus, beginning in 1986, when PI was retained as the source for drilling information, wells which in the past would have been reported as gas wells now are being included in the oil well category.

This change will not be too apparent for the current report period since the reporting time lag for some areas tends to minimize the impact. However, as more 1986 data are reported to the API, the shift in well classification, from gas to oil, will become evident.

Therefore, the API has modified its data base and has changed the previously reported gas wells to oil wells to coincide with the new reporting basis. Thus, the April "Monthly Completion Report" shows the number of oil wells and gas wells for the current month and all prior months on the new basis.

- 1/ A well which produces oil from one zone, regardless of the number of productive gas zones, is classified as an oil well. A well which produces gas from one or more zones is classified as a gas well.

The January through March, 1986 "Monthly Completion Reports" also have been reclassified and they will be made available to Subscribers on request. If you wish to receive the three prior monthly reports please write to:

Drilling Statistics Section
American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20005